



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
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Minutes 02/03/2010

ARLINGTON FINANCE COMMITTEE
 MINUTES OF MEETING
 7:30PM O'Neill Room Community Safety Building
 2/3/10

ATTENDEES:

McGaffigan*		Bayer*	Phelps	Dunn*
DeCoursey*	Connors*	Simmons*	Olszewski*	
Tosti*	Foskett*	Deyst*	Ronan*	
Ferrara*	Franclemont*	Jones*	Deshler*	
DuBois*	Howard*	Fanning*	Carman	Turkall*

* Indicates present

VISITORS: Town Manager Brian Sullivan, Stand For Children member Vicki Ford

REVIEW OF BUDGET BOOK: Sullivan walked the FinCom through the budget book provided to all members. In January when the book was printed the revenue estimates required 2.5% reductions in both school and municipal operating budgets. He went through his recommendations and defended them to numerous questions. He noted again 10% insurance increases and 6% pension increases. He has budgeted no COLAs. Recently the Governor's budget promises no reduction in state aid. Sullivan now estimates, should the legislature approve, the reductions would not be needed and a small increase would be possible. He plans to have revised allocations ready by 2/22.

In response to a request, Sullivan reviewed the GIC negotiations w/ the Town unions. The teachers' union refused the Town's final offer fearing possible changes in the state plan and thus losing a substantial pay increase and, because of coalition bargaining, preventing any union from joining GIC in FY11. Sullivan has requested reopening negotiations for FY12. He will also ask the Town Meeting to approve a home rule petition to allow the Town to join the GIC if negotiations in good faith fail & an independent actuary finds that the town worker health benefits and payments would be comparable or better than the non-GIC plans.

Sullivan has reached agreement w/ the Ranking Officers. A member vote is pending.

Sullivan would like to sell Crosby & Parmenter. This may come before Town Meeting if the School Committee agrees.

The Town is about to hire an architect to recommend whether to rebuild or renovate Thompson. The MSBA will decide. They prefer renovation if feasible.

WARRANT REVIEW: FinCom members received copies of pages 11 through 17 of the draft warrant. Almost all these articles are appropriations. Tosti requested Turkall to arrange hearings on most of these articles & to prepare a schedule.

TOWN REORGANIZATION COMMITTEE: Tosti is chairing this group. They have formed a number of subcommittees and are in the process of gathering information. There will be placekeeper articles in the warrant

for long lead time changes.

TRANSFERS:

Special Elections - Town Clerk: VOTED to approve the actual amount of \$2608.95. Unanimous. The vote at the 11/16 meeting was to set aside an amount to cover the estimated cost.

Special Elections - Selectmen: VOTED to authorize the Selectmen to submit actual bills for payment of special elections purposes up to the estimated total of \$57,504. 14-3. Some members questioned this new procedure proposed by GenGov SubCom (Howard).

Compensation for underpayment of staff in Treasurer Office: This request, based on information from the Personnel Director, is to make good underpayments going back to the reclassification of the assistant treasurer in 2002. VOTED to transfer \$30,971.13 from the reserve fund to the Treasurer's budget. Unanimous.

BUDGET&REVENUE TASK FORCE : Tosti reviewed meeting on 2/1. School deficit reduced from \$6.8m to \$4m based on Governor's budget. The remainder is not entirely clear to audience. Legislators will work to pass the Governor's budget as it affects Arlington. Only 2 support the Managers proposal on GIC.

COMMITTEE: No mtg Monday. Full warrant Wed. Goal is to finish hearings this month. Understand department budgets & correct if necessary. Vote budgets in first half of March.

RESERVE FUND BALANCE: \$600,000-\$2,608.95-\$57,504-\$30,971.13=\$508,915.92

Peter B Howard 2/4/10

cc FinCom Members, Selectmen, Town Manager, Library File, Town Web Site FinCom Web Site